

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22313

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS  
COMMAND (ISOC)

1. WITH THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA ON  
30 SEPTEMBER 1975, A NEW SENIOR-OFFICER LINEUP HAS  
EMERGED IN THE ROYAL THAI INTERNAL SECURITY AND OPERA-  
TIONS COMMAND (ISOC). THE FOLLOWING SHOWS THE NEW TOP  
LINEUP AT ISOC, WITH THE INCUMBENT'S NON-ISOC POSITION  
SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS.

DIRECTOR GEN. BUNCHAI BAMRUNGPHONG (CINC RTA)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

(MILITARY) GEN. SAIYUT KOETPHON (DEP C/S SCHQ)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GEN. CHOT HIRANYATTHITI (DEP CINC RTA)  
(RTA)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR POL.LT. GEN SISUK (DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
(POLICE) MAHINTARATHEP TNPD)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR NOT YET KNOWN  
(CIVILIAN)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GEN. PRACHUAP (ADVISOR  
SUNTHARANGKUN RTA)

CHIEF OF STAFF LTG PRALONG WIRAPRIYA (ASSIGNED  
SCHQ)

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DEPUTY C/S (PERS) LTG WITHUN YASAWAT (ASST C/S

PERS RTA)  
DEPUTY C/S (LOG) LTG CHALOEM SUTTIRAK (ASST C/S  
LOG, RTA)  
DEPUTY C/S NOT YET KNOWN  
(CIVILIAN)  
DEPUTY C/S NOT YET KNOWN  
(POLICE)  
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS MG PHINYO WATCHARATHET (NONE)  
COORDINATION CENTER  
ADVISOR GEN. KRIT SIWARA (RETIRED)

2. THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RTA) IS A NEW ONE.  
A SINECURE, IT WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE A SALARIED  
ISOC SLOT FOR CHOT, WHO AS DEPUTY CINC RTA COULD HAVE  
EXPECTED TO FILL THE ISOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MILITARY)  
JOB. CREATION OF THE NEW SLOT ENABLED SAIYUT TO BE  
APPOINTED TO THE MILITARY DEPUTY POSITION, THE ONLY  
ONE OF THE FOUR DEPUTY SLOTS WITH ANY REAL POWER OR  
FUNCTIONS.

3. THE ROLE THAT RETIRED GENERAL KRIT SIWARA WILL  
PLAY IN ISOC IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH THE ISOC  
STAFF IS SPECULATING THAT IT WILL BE AN ACTIVE ONE.  
IF KRIT TAKES MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN ISOC IT WILL  
BE A DEFINITE CHANGE FROM HIS PAST ASSOCIATION  
WITH THE ORGANIZATION WHEN HE WAS ITS DIRECTOR.  
HE DEMONSTRATED VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN ISOC AND  
ITS COUNTERINSURGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND WAS  
CONTENT TO LET SAIYUT, THEN CHIEF OF STAFF OF ISOC,  
TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT.

4. SAIYUT'S NEW POSITION WITH ISOC MAY BE A  
CONTROLLING ONE. A RECENT ISOC ORDER, NUMBER 84/1975,  
INDICATES THAT HIS POLITICAL MANEUVERING WITH  
BUNCHAI HAS SUCCEEDED AND THAT HE WILL, IN FACT, RUN  
THE ISOC SHOW ON BUNCHAI'S BEHALF. SAIYUT RECENTLY  
TOLD US THAT BUNCHAI WANTS IT SO.

5. THE ASSIGNMENT OF GENERALS PRACHUAP AND WITHUN,  
BOTH OF WHOM HAVE SERVED IN SENIOR POLICE ASSIGNMENTS,  
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BACK TO THE RTA WITH ADDITIONAL DUTIES IN ISOC WAS  
A RECENT MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GENERAL  
KRIT AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRAMAN WITH KRIT  
EMERGING AS THE VICTOR. PRACHUAP APPARENTLY HAS NO  
OTHER DUTY IN ISOC THAN THAT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
TO SAIYUT, WHOM PRACHUAP RANKS. THE SAIYUT-ORIENTED  
ISOC STAFF NONETHELESS APPEARS APPREHENSIVE OVER THE ULTIMATE  
ROLES THAT PRACHUAP AND WITHUN WILL PLAY IN SUBSTANTIVE

ISOC MATTERS WITH THEIR MENTOR KRIT BACK IN ISOC  
AS THE SENIOR ADVISOR.

6. THERE STILL HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RTG POLICY  
STATEMENT ON COUNTERINSURGENCY, ON STRENGTHENING  
ISOC'S DIRECTIVE AUTHORITY, OR ON THE NATIONAL  
PRIORITY TO BE AFFORDED THE CI EFFORT. ISOC,  
THEREFORE, PROBABLY WILL REMAIN A RELATIVELY  
POWERLESS BUREAUCRATIC ELEMENT WITHIN THE DELICATELY-  
BALANCED RTG POWER STRUCTURE REGARDLESS OF THE  
CHANGE IN ITS CAST OF CHARACTERS.

7. COMMENT: THE RECENT FUROR OVER KEY RTA  
ASSIGNMENTS BOTH WITHIN THE MILITARY  
HEIRARCHY AND ISOC ONCE AGAIN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES  
THAT INTERNAL POLITICS STILL DOMINATE GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS. INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP POWER POSITIONS  
ARE BASED ON CAREFUL COMBINATIONS AND MANEUVERING  
AMONG CONTESTING POWER FACTIONS. IN THE CASE OF  
ISOC PERSONNEL CHANGES, THE ORGANIZATION'S EFFECTIVE-  
NESS COULD BECOME FURTHER IMPAIRED IN THE EVENT OF  
INTERNECINE PERSONAL POLITICAL STRUGGLES AMONG THE  
NEWLY-ASSIGNED SENIOR GENERAL OFFICERS AND THE OLD  
ISOC STAFF.  
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